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AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

VOLUME 3 SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, JANUARY, 1921 NUMBER 1

JANUARY (4th ANNUAL) MEETING: The next regular meeting of the Association will be held on Thursday evening, 13th inst., at eight o'clock, in the Lecture Hall of the California Development Board, mezzanine floor of the Ferry Building.

Annual reports of officers and standing committees will be presented, and officers and directors elected for the ensuing year.

Members and friends will be pleased to learn that Dr. Evermann has recovered from his illness and that he will be with us at this meeting to deliver his address on "A Recent Trip to the Hawaiian Islands," unavoidably postponed from the December meeting.

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ANNUAL DUES ARE PAYABLE IN JANUARY. If you do not intend paying at the annual meeting, will you not kindly send check to the Treasurer during the month? Much merit may be acquired in this fashion.

* * *

JANUARY FIELD TRIP will be taken to Lake Merritt, Oakland, on Sunday, January 16th.

San Francisco members will take Key Route boat at 9 a. m., transferring to Grand Avenue car on 22nd Street train at the Mole, leaving car at corner of Euclid and Grand Avenues.

East Bay members transfer from any main line to Grand Avenue or Lake Shore Avenue cars which pass the point mentioned.

The party will form at the Embarcadero Colonnade at the east end of Lake Merritt promptly at 9:45 a. m. in order to view the feeding of the wild ducks, which takes place at 10 a. m.

Those desiring to spend the afternoon in Trestle Glen, where some thirty-nine species of land birds were encountered last year, about a half mile from Lake Merritt, will bring lunch and drinking water.

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE DECEMBER MEETING: The forty-seventh regular meeting of the Association was held on December 9th, in the Ferry Building, with President D'Evelyn in the chair; Mrs. C. R. Smith, Secretary; twenty-three members and fourteen guests in attendance.

The Board of Directors convened just prior to the meeting and elected Miss Marie Sterne to membership.

A letter from Dr. Gillespie of the Scottish Zoological Gardens brought news that the baby penguin was doing nicely and that its parents gave token of further activities; that other penguin eggs had been laid, but were destroyed before hatching. The President called the attention of the meeting to the wanton destruction of toyon trees, (California Holly, or Christmas Berries), and cited the recent seizure by the city marshal of San Mateo, of over two tons of branches, cut or torn with utter disregard for the future of the tree or shrub.

Mr. Lastreto reported progress of committee work on the problem of halting the destruction of bald eagles in Alaska and the repeal of the bounty on these birds, ill-advised and unjustifiable as it is.

The illness of Dr. Evermann having prevented his attendance at the meeting, the address of the evening was made by Dr. D'Evelyn, who selected "Ostrich Feathers" as his subject. With many references to food and habits of these peculiar birds, the development, gathering and grading of the feathers were described in detail to the obvious enjoyment of those present.

* * *

Died, December 15, 1920, G. Earle Kelly, Member of the Association.

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RESULTS OF FUR SEAL PROTECTION

The fur seal herd of the Pribilof Islands, as enumerated in 1920 consisted of some 550,000 individuals. This number does not include 28,000 which had been killed by the United States Government and which are expected to yield a revenue of more than a million and a half dollars to the three countries interested. England and Japan participate in the profits to the extent of fifteen per cent each, in compensation for the abandonment by them of the practice of hunting the female seals at sea. This hunting began about 1880, lasted until 1911, and reduced the herd from about two million animals to less than two hundred thousand. Since the practice has ceased the herd has trebled in size, notwithstanding the fact that the Government has taken over 100,000 surplus males for commercial purposes.

* * *

G. Dallas Hanna.

SHOOTING BIRDS IN THE NAME OF SCIENCE

Editorial from Bulletin of the American Game Protective Association, in The Sportsmen's Review.

A letter was recently received from Mr. T. P. Bellchambers, of Fauna Propagation Area, Humbug Scrub, South Australia. Mr. Bellchambers complains bitterly of the many men, so-called scientific collectors, who, under permit are legally allowed to take rare specimens under the guise of pre-

serving them for science. He says that in Australia the abuse of this privilege is bound to seal the doom of species at low ebb. The recent shooting of a pair of lyre-birds by a collector has caused a great deal of indignation among the conservationists of that section.

This danger does not exist in Australia alone. We believe there are entirely too many scientific permits issued in our country. Very often the man scientifically inclined does not take the same view of this matter that you will find endorsed by every sportsman. At the present time the trumpeter swan and the whooping crane are at very low ebb. An ornithologist of no small note told the writer recently that he believed wherever it was possible such of these birds as could be found should be killed and preserved in the name of science.

We do not agree for one instant with this theory. There are already enough specimens of each of these species in museums to preserve them for all time to come. In place of killing the few remaining birds, we believe that every possible means should be taken to protect and preserve them, with the hope that possibly their kind may be perpetuated. Many birds are killed in the name of science simply to swell a private collection.

The issuing of scientific permits allowing the holder to go out at any time of year and shoot and kill as his fancy dictates, is wrong. We believe that only men recommended by the most highly accredited scientists should be granted this privilege, and even then that they should be made to live up to certain regulations giving absolute protection to those species that are nearing extinction.

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NOVEMBER BIRDS AT CARMEL

A fifth November outing at Carmel resulted in encounters with seven species which did not figure in our list of August last, and three of these are of special interest.

A Lewis woodpecker was met in the pines near the summit of the highway to Monterey.

A dusky warbler was found on November 26th, traveling through the brushy growth near 10th and Monte Verde, with other members of one of the foraging swarms that are so noticeable here.

A western mockingbird was observed on November 28th, in the rather thick growth near the foot of Ocean Ave.

The other additions were: common loon; Farallon cormorant; Cabanis woodpecker; tule wren.

A. S. Kibbe.

DECEMBER FIELD TRIP was taken on Sunday, Deeember 12th, to Muir Woods and Big Lagoon. This is one of the most fruitful one-day birding trips that may be taken in this district at any season of the year, and in variety of seenie attraction likewise stands near or at, the head of our list, but the thirteen or fourteen miles and the ups and downs seem to earry a meaning of their own to most of our birders for the attendanee is always small.

Leaving Mill Valley, the top of the steps was reaehed by an easy detour, overlooking Homestead Valley; thenee up the guleh trail, to the top of the ridge; down the fire trail, passing "All-In," into Muir Woods. After a side trip toward the Inn, the creek was followed down the Frank Valley to the oeean. Eaeh of the ladies present qualified in aerobaties when a timber which was generously long, but very defieient in width, offered the only dry-foot route aeross a stream some three jumps wide. The return was made up the eanyon along the stage road to the summit; thence by trail down through the old rifle range on Coyote Creek and to Almonte station. The day was perfeet, overhead, and the trails not bad, although along the creek bottoms they were rather muddy.

Curiously enough, many of the commoner birds were missing, but in the majority of eases, those eneountered showed to great advantage. On the bay were found: glaueous-winged, western and California gulls, and the official great blue heron of Riehardson's Bay. On land: California quail, sharp-shinned, red-tailed and sparrow hawks; Harris woodpeeker and red-shafted flieker; Say phoebe, eoast and California jays; crow, meadowlark, linnet and green-baeked goldfineh; Nuttall and golden-crowned sparrows, junco and song sparrow; California towhee, Hutton vireo, Audubon and Townsend warblers; pipit, chickadee, bush-tit and wren-tit; ruby-crowned kinglet, hermit thrush, robin and western bluebird. Thirty-three species in all.

The trip was made by Mrs. Reygadas, Miss Manley, Miss Calhoun and Mr. Kibbe. Three members and one guest.

AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

FOR THE STUDY AND THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS

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Meets second Thursday of each month in Lecture Room of California Development Board, Ferry Building, San Francisco.

Every one welcome. Active Membership, $3.00 per year, including Bulletin. Address Bulletin correspondence to Treasurer.

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